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# The DX Bulletin

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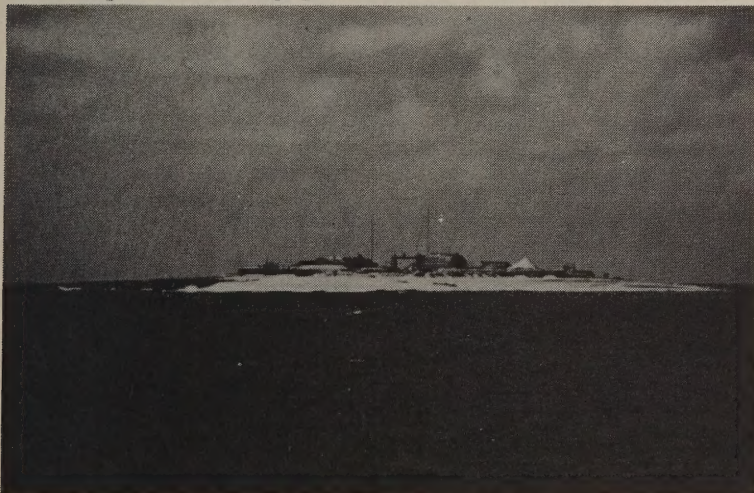
ISSUE 187 APRIL 25, 1983

## TWO AMATEURS DEAD IN SPRATLY ATTEMPT; VIET NAM BLAMED

Wednesday, April 20, 1983

THE WORST FEARS of radio amateurs around the world were confirmed today, with official word that two of their fraternity have been killed in the South China Sea. Gero Band, DJ3NG, and Diethelm Mueller, DJ4EI, have perished in an attempt to operate amateur radio from the Spratly Islands. Expedition member Baldur Drobica, DJ6SI, was reportedly wounded in the attack on their sailing vessel. Others on the "Siddhartha," Norbert Willand, DF6FK, owner Peter Marx, and his wife Jenny Toh, were apparently unharmed.

The unarmed Siddhartha, enroute to an unoccupied reef in the Spratly group, was fired upon by Vietnamese from Amboyna Cay, an island only a few hundred meters in diameter, located near the main Spratly island. The Siddhartha sank almost immediately, with Diethelm Mueller already dead of gunshot wounds. The attack occurred on Sunday, April 10, following which the group drifted for ten days in a dinghy.



Amboyna Cay (April, 1979)

Following three unsuccessful air searches for the dinghy, by the Siddhartha's owners, a Maritime Alert was issued to all vessels in the region. On Tuesday, April 19, the Freighter Linden, out of Japan (Panamanian registry) found the dinghy. It had drifted some 350 km from the point of attack near

Amboyna Cay. Gero Band, DJ3NG, succumbed on April 17, aboard the dinghy, reportedly of starvation. The Linden was due to land in Hong Kong with the survivors on April 22.

The Associated Press news service carried a story on the situation April 15, but it was picked up by very few newspapers in the U.S. Their sources, Philippine amateur operator Klaus Ziller, and German Embassy (Manila) first secretary Jorg Zimmerman, gave the same story as reported in TDXB Issue 186 (April 18). Zimmerman stated that West Germany had "notified all five governments of a radio transmission Sunday (Apr 10) that said the Siddhartha had been attacked and ended with a man's voice yelling 'Fire on board! Fire on board.'" The AP also attributed the stepped-up search for the Siddhartha to distress signals heard on the amateur 20-Meter band on Thursday, April 14.

According to the AP story, Vietnam "first wanted assurances the boat did not carry a political group, and then promised not to interfere with the rescue attempt." There is no indication of why the Vietnamese on Amboyna Cay did not rescue the survivors themselves. Very late word to TDXB indicates that the Vietnamese shelling was extensive, as all six persons aboard the Siddhartha were injured to some extent. They were cast adrift with neither food nor water.

Finally, as for the future DXCC status of Spratly and associated islands in the South China Sea, there has been talk for some time of not counting (for Spratly credit) the associated islands which are controlled by countries other than Viet Nam (which controls Spratly). It is expected that this talk will continue, at a stepped-up pace.

POSTSCRIPT: an AP wire story came in at 1517Z April 20. Please send TDXB a copy if your local newspaper carries it.

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PROPAGATION: Apr 24, 25, Below Normal; Apr 26, 27, Low Normal; Apr 28 - May 2, Low Normal; May 3, 4, Below Normal; May 5, Disturbed; May 6-9, Low Normal; May 10, 11, Below Normal. TNX N4XX.

Flux (81)	Flux (82)	Date	Flux (83)	Alpha (83)	K (83)
258	157	4/14	111	27	4
257	151	4/15	103	31	4
248	147	4/16	104	24	4
241	147	4/17	113	17	3
227	146	4/18	120	11	3
215	144	4/19	124	11	2



SPRATLY 1979

CHINA: In Issue 185 it was mentioned that the People's Republic of China has cancelled "cultural exchange" programs with the United States for the rest of 1983, in retaliation for the U.S.'s granting of political asylum to woman tennis player Hu Na. We have now learned that the All China Sports Federation has also announced that "PRC contestants would not participate in any sports activities in the U.S. in 1983." As amateur radio is considered a "sport," it is now questionable whether BY1PK and BY8AA will be affected. Neither station has been reported on the bands since March 30, and the output of QSLs from them has dropped off to nearly nothing the past few weeks.

HEARD ISLAND: Jim Smith, VK9NS, leader of the VKØJS operation, phoned TDXB on April 20, to advise he was leaving for the U.S. He will be at both the Visalia and Dayton Conventions, to refute charges of the VK6 DX Chasers (VKØHI). Those charges were published in TDXB # 183.

QSL cards from Smith's group have been hitting the mails for several weeks now. No QSLs have come from the VKØHI/VKØCW operation, and neither the IDXF nor the NCDXF has published a newsletter or press release since the February Heard Island operation which they co-sponsored.

SPEAKING OF VISALIA and the "International DX Convention" this weekend, here's a final round-up of attendees: Martti Laine, OH2BH (OHØW contest report); Tom Taormina, K5RC (on big contest stations); Jay O'Brien, W6GO (co-publisher of the W6GO/K6HHD QSL List); JALBK (on his BY1PK visit); Al Fischer, K8CW/VKØCW (Heard Island 1983); Jim Smith, VK9NS/VKØJS (also Heard Island 1983); Eric Sjolund, SMØAGD (1982 Pacific expedition); Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, and Iris Colvin, W6QL (YASME Africa/Asia 1982-83, see TDXB 186); Phil Weaver, VS6CT (Hong Kong/Macao Pictorial Essay); plus the usual ARRL and club dignitaries. TDXB will be there in spirit!

Pictured above are K4SMX, K1MM, and VK2BJL, on a reef just a few miles from Spratly's Amboyna Cay, in April, 1979. They had approached Amboyna Cay a few days earlier (see photo page one), been fired at, and they returned to the mainland to reconiter. At that point, team members N200 and N4WW decided not to return for another try. The three remaining team members set out on VK2BJL's yacht, the "Banyanda," and subsequently operated for about three days from the reef.

#### K4YT Report

Indonesia, April 10

WAS ON from 9N1MM a few weeks ago but propagation was lousy. I did work many Europeans on 40 Meters. Was all set to work the CQ WPX (SSB) from 4S7EA's house but the Ministry of Defense rejected my request for a call.

I went to a meeting of the radio club in Bangkok, and got a feel for the politics involved in the recent silencing of HS amateur stations. They should be on the air again soon. The club has asked to be allowed to sign HSØHS in the All Asia Contest in June. (Ed Note: TDXB reported earlier that HS stations had been ordered off the air around the time of Thailand's general elections).

Here in Indonesia, I've been operating from the station of YBØACP (K6DLV). Phil will take skeds for 40/80 Meters if you ask him on 20. He's also trying to get the government to drop the "resident i.d. requirement" for a YBØ call. You'll know he was successful when you hear K4YT/YBØ.

Next stops Singapore (ended 4/21), then DUL 4/21-4/26, Hong Kong until 4/27, and on into China. And I'm scheduled back in Africa this summer.

THE W6GO/K6HHD LIST  
PO BOX 700  
RIO LINDA, CA 95673

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\$1.75 each \$2.80 each (US\$)



BANDPASS: Call/Frequency/UTC (plus West, Central, East Coast report)/Date

EA4LH/	JA1CGM 3505 11E 12	UI8ADQ 14033 01E 12	5T5RY 14206 01C 15
CE3 21275 00E 17	JT1AO 14226 03W 16	UI8OK 7001 00E 15	5W1EB 14202 03E 14
CE0ZAD 21345 00E 10	KC6IN 14211 13C 11	VK9ND 14202 12E 15	5W1EB 14211 12E 14
CE0ERY 14209 03E 13	(E. Carolines)	VK9NS 14218 12E 16	5Z4DR 21030 19E 14
CN8BK 14031 00E 16	KH0AC 14225 03W 16	VQ9CI 14205 12C 11	5Z4DR 14029 23E 15
CN8MT 28552 14E 17	PA0ATA/	VS5HG 14213 15W 16	5Z4DR 21291 19E 17
CT3DJ 14034 23E 10	LX 14024 14E 10	VU2UGI 14225 04W 17	6W8FZ 14216 22C 14
CT3CP 14019 22E 13	LX1DA 21032 16W 10	VU2UGI 14202 12E 18	7X2LS 21355 19E 10
CT3DJ 7011 01E 15	MLX 7007 00E 10	YB3CD 14213 15W 16	8Q7AV 14209 12C 12
EA8JE 28052 14E 17	OD5NT 14215 01E 12	ZC4BI 14022 21E 9	9H4P 21076 13E 13
EA8AER 14016 10E 18	OH0PA 14016 14E 16	ZD7BW 21276 21W 16	9J2LL 14035 21E 10
EA9JG 28046 16E 10	OY2J 14026 23E 10	ZK1CG 21345 00E 10	9J2BO 21026 19C 13
EA9GK 14019 00E 13	OY7ML 14027 15E 10	ZK1DX 14004 03E 13	9V1VP 14008 12E 9
EL2AD 21315 12E 13	OX5JM 14015 15E 10	ZL1ANJ 28520 14E 17	9V1TL 14018 11E 9
FB8WI 14019 13E 15	PJ8II 14024 19C 13	ZP5CD 28023 22E 9	
FB8WI 14013 13C 16	PZ9AB 14007 22E 10	ZP5CPE 28573 13E 17	Mail reports to
FB8WI 14026 13E 18	PZ1DV 14020 11E 15	3B8CF 3505 03E 10	reach Vernon by
FB8ZP 14217 13E 10	PZ1DV 7003 09E 20	3B8CF 7005 03E 10	Wednesday, or phone
FB8ZQ 14214 13E 15	G4ABI/	3B8FK 14034 03E 12	
FB8ZQ 14013 02E 18	ST2 21016 21E 16	3B8FG 14027 03E 13	203-871-7699 anytime.
FC8TT 7003 03E 10	TL8GE 14202 03E 13	3B8CF 14241 12C 16	
FM7WU 3506 00E 10	TR8DR 21025 22C 10	3B9DA 14209 12C 11	Best contributor of
FO8GM 14011 11E 15	TR8JLD 21072 13E 13	3B9DA 14208 13C 16	information each
FR7BP 21031 14E 10	TU2JL 14238 04E 13	4K1B 14023 03E 13	month wins a <u>free</u>
GU2FMF 14028 11E 12	UF6FFF 14019 15E 10	4S7EA 14210 12E 12	year of <u>TDXB</u> !
HK0BKX 14025 13E 13	UG6GDS 14019 22E 9	4S7EA 14216 12E 18	
HK0BKX 14017 12E 17	UL7JCX 14026 03E 10	5B4MN 3505 00E 10	
HL9TH 14230 14W 17	UI8ADQ 14033 01E 12	5H3BC 14227 14E 10	

DX CALL

A35XX  
A71BJ  
BY8AA  
CE0AE  
CN8CO  
CN8CX  
CP6EL  
CR1CBU  
CR9FE  
CR9Z  
CX7BY  
C31NP  
DL1JW/HP1  
EA8ZI  
EA9KF  
EW2A  
FB8ZP  
FB8ZQ  
FM0HOR  
HC8GI  
HH2VP  
HI8RAU  
HZ1AB  
IO2PJA  
JT1AN  
JT1BG  
J28AZ  
J6LT  
J73DF  
KC6IN  
KC6SZ  
KC7UU/5N6  
KJ8G/J6L  
KJ8G/8P6  
KP4AM  
KR4C/V2A  
KX6OA  
K0TT/KH0  
K1BJ/3B8  
K1BJ/3B9

QSL TO

DJ0FX  
G4HNP  
BY1PK  
WA3HUP  
WB3KGY  
K4CEB  
WB1DQC  
CT1CBU  
KL7IHP  
NOT:JA1ELY  
W0IJN  
EA3BNX  
DL1KB  
SM5IWC  
EA9IE  
UK2AAB  
F6KNO  
F6GXB  
K6YRA  
W3HNC  
W1FJ  
WB2LCH  
K8PYD  
I2PJA  
W7PHO  
W7PHO  
I8JN  
NOT:WB2LCH  
N4CRU  
JA6BSM  
JA6BSM  
K6EDV  
KJ8G  
KJ8G  
W7PHO  
KR4C  
K6DSI  
K0TT  
K1BJ  
K1BJ

K3UOC/PJ5

K3UOC/PJ6  
K4LTA/V2A  
K7NHV/VP2V  
NP4A  
N0ZO/DU2  
OD5LX  
ON5UM/LX  
PY0ZSD  
PY0ZSF  
PY0ZSG  
TJ1GH  
TR8JD  
TU2HJ  
TU2LS  
T30AT  
T32AB  
UA1PAO  
VELCBK/1  
VK2WU  
VK9YB  
VK9YC  
VP2EH  
VP2ES  
VP2KBD  
VP2KBE  
VP2M  
VP2MKD  
VP2MM  
VP2VCN  
VP2VGI  
VP5ARX  
VP5FX  
VP5LDX  
VP8AQU  
VP9AD  
VQ9CI  
VS5YY  
VS6DO  
V2AXA  
W6YB/3D6

K3UOC

K3UOC  
K4LTA  
K7NHV  
W3HNC  
K0LST  
SM0DJZ  
ON5UM  
DA2ZH  
DA2ZH  
DK9KX  
DJ5RT  
F6AJA  
W3HNC  
K3GYD  
G3XZF  
N7YL  
UK1OAA  
VE1AJH  
WA2BFW  
KB9UV  
KB9UV  
KC5EA  
K8CV  
K1IJV  
K1IJV  
WB2LCH  
N0DH  
AB1U  
KP4EBQ  
KP4EBQ  
W8UVZ  
K4UEE  
WB8LDH  
K0JW  
W3HNC  
KE4OC  
K5YY  
K4CIA  
K4LTA  
KB7VD

XE2EBE

XF0MDX  
XO7EOQ  
XT2AW  
XT2BM  
YB5AES  
ZB2EO  
ZD7CW  
ZD8DX  
ZD9BZ  
ZF2GT  
ZF2GV  
ZL1AMO/C  
Z21GN  
3B9DA  
3D6AK  
4K1D  
4N9WG  
5H3BH  
5Z4MX  
5Z4WL  
6Y5IC  
7X4AN  
9J2BO  
9J2TY  
9K2BE  
9K2QL  
9M6YY  
9Q5JE  
9Y4RD/ST0

AA6DP

XE1MDX  
VE7DLO  
KN1DPS  
WD4RHL  
W4BBP  
K3MNV  
N4CID  
W4MJZ  
K1IDE  
WA0KNF  
W2HPF  
ZL1AMO  
NY4X  
3B8DA  
G3WPF  
UA1AFM  
YU4GYZ  
SM0EAI  
SM3CXS  
DL3WL  
G3XTJ  
DJ2BW  
W6ORD  
JH3DPB  
G4GIR  
YASME  
K5YY  
DJ5TY  
KA2DDJ

DX CALL

A92P  
BV2B  
CM2NT  
CT3DJ  
D44BC  
EL2P  
FM7CL  
FY7CH  
HR1RCT  
HT1JCC  
PZ1DV  
TT8AD  
TU2JL

QTH INFORMATION

P.O. Box 14, Manama, Bahrain  
Box 30-547, Taipei, Taiwan  
PO Box 3012, Havana 3, Cuba  
Box 742, Funchal  
POB 36, Mindelo, Cape Verde  
Box 1929, Monrovia  
PO Box 1119, Fort de France 97209  
Box 642, Cayenne  
Box 149/C, Tegucigalpa  
Jose, Box C89, Managua  
POB 9006, Paramaribo  
Box 815, N'Djamena  
Box 1309, Abidjan 01



# CALENDAR

China No BY1PK/BY8AA since Mar 30  
 Trindade PY1EFM/PYØT still on; Issues 180, 181  
 Rodrigues 3B9DA now says will be active until June  
 Crozet FB8WI almost every day, 14020, 1300Z  
 Eq Guinea Still looking for F6BBJ/3C1 anytime

Ogasawara By KC2HQ, JR1YGP, end of April  
 Hamvention Dayton, last weekend of April  
 Macao CR9T by WA4IKZ, May 2-8; I 181  
 W6AM Visitor's Day June 16

FINAL NOTE: You will probably receive your 1983  
TDXB Countries-Needed Survey sheet with next week's  
 issue. It will come in an envelope, and be sure  
 to take a look at the envelope, because we plan  
 to put the month/year your subscription expires on  
 the envelope somewhere. At that time we will be  
 suggesting you consider sending a check for another  
 year, to save us the expense of some renewal notices.

# CONTRIBUTORS

PLEASE NOTE: TDXB has received  
twenty-two phone calls on Apr  
 20 alone; if we do not list your  
 callsign below, it is entirely  
 unintentional, and we apolo-  
 gize.

KA1BU, KH6BZF, K6HHD, K4YT,  
 K3ZO, K1ZZ, W3AZD, W1HZ, K1JX,  
 WB1AVA, K4SMX, AB8K, WØBW, K6IR,  
 K3MRT, W7HRD, K1NH, K8EM, K1XM,  
 WD5AAM, KA1BE, XE1NI, WØJRN,  
 W4VQ, WB8ZRL, W1DQH, K4CEF,  
 K4BAI, WD8QVD, WB4LFM, W6HXW,  
 WØYDB

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